Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know the Government have not got figures as to what is the extent of Cochin lands silted by floods in 1099?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I want notice. The Chief Engineer says that this is the only one which is silted up.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Shall we take it that the silting of the land it has become uncultivable in these two villages?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That is the position of the Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know why in the Bharatha river nature has been particularly unkind to these two villages?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That is the special view of the river.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether there are lands of the kind in Tiruvilwamala village?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There may be I. But the calcualtion did not take in those sides.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether it is not the duty of the village officer under the Diwan Peishkar to report about such damage being done to the respective villages?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* O Yes. But not in an answer of this kind.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* May I know whether the Hon'ble Member for revenue has got any such report, from any of the authority except the public?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I want notice.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether this will be prevented?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We tried to do some protective work in that place in 1102 and 1103 but it was not successful. Unless we spent a very large amount of money in the matter of putting up groynes, it will not be possible to protect this area. We tried the question of constructing an earthen bund. Then we found that the earthen bund however will be constructed is liable to be over topped by any subsequent flood and the protection we had at an enormous cost would not really be useful for that land and further the very fact that only a very small extent of 72 acres is involved and so thought it may not be wise in spending a large sum in protecting that area.

HOUSE RENT CONTROL ORDER

396. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) when the House Rent Control Order came into force in the State;

(*b*) who is the authority to settle the fair rent and eviction suits;

(*c*) was the jurisdiction taken away from the civil courts;

(*d*) if so, when and why;

(*e*) the number of petitions filed till now in each of the municipalities in the State and the number of disposal?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) The Cochin House Rent Control Order came into force in the State on 18th Medam 1117/1st May 1942.

(*b*) The authority to settle fair rent and eviction suits is the Controller who is the Tahsildar of the Taluk in which the area to which this order is extended is situated, subject to the appellate authority of the Diwan Peishkar.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) By notification No. 48, dated 23rd September 1944/7th Kanni 1120. This was done as an emergency measure under rule 81 (2) b of the Defence of India Rules.

(*e*) The information is being collected and it is not yet complete.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Subsequent to this I received a report I shall read it. Trichur 3 petitions for settlement of fair rent and 47 petitions for evictions; the petitions for settlement of fair rent were all disposed of. Only one petition for eviction settled. The others came in during the end of the second quarter or the beginning of the third quarter 1120. They are posted to 6th and 15th of Meenam. As soon as the hearing is finished

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final orders will be passed. So far as Ernakulam and Mattancheri Municipalities are concerned the figures are given below.

	No. Received	*No. Disposed*	*No. pending*
		1117	
Ernakulam	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mattancheri	..	..	..
		1118	
Ernakulam	..	..	..
Mattancheri	1	1	..
		1119	
Ernakulam	11	10	1
Mattancheri	4	3	1
		1120	
Ernakulam	44	12	32
Mattancheri	42	5	37

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur)*: Is the Government aware that in the year 1117, there was evacuation from Ernakulam and the rent of the House in Ernakulam was very low.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: After evacuation the rent was low.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur)*: That under the Rent Control order rent is to be fixed on the basis of the Rent Control Order.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: There was in a particular month in 1117 there was no sudden fall in that period.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur)*: Is the Government aware that during that period the rent of the house in Ernakulam was lower than the normal rent? Government will be pleased to look into that aspect.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Yes.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know whether the Rent Control Order is applicable to other municipal areas.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: The matter is under consideration.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know whether the Diwan Peishkar has issued any instructions to the village officers.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: No instructions have been given. Rent Control Orders will show that no instructions are necessary also, no instructions have been asked for.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether any special staff is given to work this order?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: There is no special staff.

REVISING AUTHORITIES—NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED, ETC.

397. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Will Government be pleased to state the number of applications received, considered and finally allowed by the Revising Authority as voters from each constituency in addition to the list already published for the ensuing Legislative Council Election?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan-Peishkar)*: A list containing the available particulars is placed on the Council Table.

COCOANUTS AND COCOANUT OIL—RICE IN PRICES

398. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the abnormal rise in prices of cocoanuts and cocoanut oil;

(*b*) do they propose to take any steps to bring down the prices?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*:

(*a*) Compared with the rise in prices of rice and other essential commodities, the rise in prices of cocoanuts and cocoanut oil cannot be said to be abnormal. Recently, however, the prices of cocoanut and cocoanut oil have been rising higher. This rise is likely to be only temporary. There is no reason to believe that the prices will remain steady at this level. There were similar fluctuations last year also.

(*b*) The situation is being watched.

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